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RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. COLUMBAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize the 150th anniversary of my childhood parish, St. Columban Roman Catholic Church of Loveland, Ohio.

In 1859, Father John Baptist O'Donoghue, of St. Andrew's Parish in Milford, and 10 families worked together to raise enough money to purchase an old, one-room schoolhouse from the Village of Loveland on Broadway Avenue.

Like many budding parishes, the original rectory did not meet the needs of the local Catholic community for very long. In 1893, St. Columban built their second house of worship on that site. A few years later, the first school was built. This church will always hold a special place in my heart because my home was built from its bricks.

As the parish was celebrating its 100th anniversary, St. Columban was, once again, forced to expand to a new church at a different site. I was in attendance that day 50 years ago when Archbishop Karl J. Alter dedicated the new school building which housed the church in the cafeteria. Rapid growth twice required separate additions to be built to house the church. In 2002, the church finally moved out of the school and into its own building.

Each year, I have the privilege to host the St. Columban eighth-grade students to the Capitol. I am honored to be their Congresswoman and tour guide.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating St. Columban's 150th anniversary and in wishing them continued success.

God bless them. God bless the United States of America.

COMMONSENSE LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE WELLNESS

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, during the upcoming August work period, my colleagues and I will travel back to our districts to talk about meaningful health care reform that fixes what is broken and that protects what works.

One of the things that does not work is the skyrocketing costs of medical treatment in the United States. If Congress is serious about tackling the issue, we must address the growing concern of chronic disease—preventable conditions that account for 85 percent of total health spending. Obesity alone cost \$147 billion last year.

Today, I am introducing legislation that will offer up to 20 percent dis-

counted premiums to those who make the effort to live healthier lifestyles, such as not smoking, such as achieving and maintaining normal body mass index and working at lowering blood pressure and cholesterol levels. As a result, there will be an economic incentive to encourage personal responsibility for one's health, which will dramatically reduce overall costs.

As we look at health insurance reform, we need to make sure that we look at encouraging wellness. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this commonsense legislation to promote wellness.

IN APPRECIATION OF ALLEN AIMAR

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of the Second Congressional District staff, Allen Aimar.

Allen first served as a field representative in our Beaufort Lowcountry office before coming to Washington as military legislative assistant. Allen is leaving Washington behind for his law school career at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. He will be joined by his wife, Amber, who previously served on the staff of the Second District and as staff to Dr. Phil Roe.

Allen has been vital in helping constituents, particularly on military issues. He has brought his own experience and knowledge as a veteran of the Army National Guard in Iraq. He appreciates our servicemembers, their families and veterans.

Allen is the son of Allen and Deborah Aimar of Johnson City, Tennessee, and of Greg and Marian Erickson of Beaufort, South Carolina, and is brother to Adam Aimar.

We are all tremendously proud of Allen and Amber, and we wish them and their young son, Alexander Jacob Aimar, all the best in the years to come. Godspeed to the Aimar family.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as we debate health care reform legislation, my Republican friends say things are fine just the way they are. "Take two tax breaks and call me in the morning," is their prescription. This in spite of the fact that premiums have doubled in 9 years, growing three times faster than wages; this in spite of the fact that the average American family already pays an extra \$1,100 a year in premiums to support a broken system;

this in spite of the fact that 46 million Americans are uninsured.

When my Republican friends say that the American people don't deserve health reform, my response is: Are you kidding?

KATRINA ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, August 29, 2009 will mark the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. As I prepare to return to the Second District, I am reflective not so much of the unprecedented damage that wreaked havoc on the innocent but of the power of the human spirit that was so evident in every citizen as they've returned to New Orleans to rebuild their homes and to jump-start their communities.

I, too, lost everything in this storm. My wife and I, like so many others, were forced to start over after losing our home and business.

As Katrina became the byword for our Nation's social ills and failures, many even questioned the logic of rebuilding, but one only has to look around New Orleans and Jefferson Parish today to completely dispute that line of reasoning. New Orleans and Jefferson Parish are reemerging as the productive areas they once were. Tourism is back on the rise, and entrepreneurs are returning to reintroduce commerce and to boost the job market. But there is still much work to do.

The Stafford Act must be redesigned to bring a systemic means of Federal natural disaster assistance for State and local governments to aid citizens, and there must be a fundamental change in FEMA's approach to catastrophic disasters.

A UNIQUELY AMERICAN HEALTH CARE PLAN

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, today, it is time for health care reform.

Now, there are some out there who like to claim that we don't need reform now because the private marketplace will take care of everything. Well, the private marketplace hasn't taken care of anything except to increase deductibles, to increase premiums, and to increase copays that cost the American people. Let me tell you what that means in my home State of Maryland.

In 2001, if you were paying on the average of \$600 a month for your health care, today, you're paying an average of \$1,000 a month for your health care. Well, I don't know about anybody else, but in my household, an extra \$400 a month is real money. It's groceries. It's an electric bill. It's daycare. I mean, this is an important cost to the American people.